



THE GREAT WAR POWER OF EUROPE.

If we consider in all its features the campaign which King William is now prosecuting in the very heart of France, we will not find its parallel in the history of the world. There have been battles more decisive, victories more brilliant and movements more rapid, but never in any history of which we have knowledge is there a record of armies as numerous, as well disciplined or as thoroughly organized having been put into the field within the same number of days, and meeting with successes as important and uninterrupted as those which have thus far been chronicled of the German armies in France. The rulers of Europe have witnessed this unexampled demonstration of power and a perfect military organization with something like consternation. A system of government which at once combines a greater average intelligence among the people and a military system superior to anything the world has ever known is well worth studying.

In 1866 this same power suddenly sprang to arms, and in the incredibly short space of thirty days hurled into Bohemia an army of over 400,000 men, as well equipped and efficiently organized as any Europe had ever seen. Before its irresistible columns the soldiers of Austria were driven and defeated in battles following each other with wonderful rapidity and almost unexampled brilliancy and dimensions.

Europe watched these developments with undisguised alarm, but finally drew consolation from the supposed inefficiency of the Austrian armies and want of ability of Marshal Benedek, their leader. The war ended in a brilliant campaign of sixty days, the result of which was the humiliation and disastrous defeat of Austria. The Prussian armies were disbanded and her veterans quietly returned to resume their accustomed avocations. Europe recovered from the shock, and concluded the result was not so much because of the superiority of the Prussian army or military organization as it was the needle gun or the inferiority of Austrian soldiers.

But now the crowned heads of the world are again startled by a demonstration of power more wonderful and alarming than that of 1866. Napoleon, on the 15th of July, declared war against Prussia, and at once placed himself at the head of a large army and directed the head of his columns towards Berlin. The prestige of his name, and the acknowledged valor and strength of the French armies, induced the belief that we were to witness, on his side at least, an aggressive and brilliant campaign. Prussia was supposed to have been surprised, and Germany, it was thought, would again be desolated by the ravages of hostile armies. But so perfect and active was her military system that at the sound of the bugle blast her whole male population, subject to military duty, quickly and systematically rushed to arms. It was not the gathering of raw recruits, without arms, or equipments, or officers, or camps or organization. It was the rapid mobilization of trained soldiers, who had their arms, equipments and ammunition ready for immediate service. There was no confusion, no want of system, no waiting for arms, ammunition, quartermaster stores or commissary supplies. Each regiment was organized in a designated district, each division in a given territory, each corps in a known division of the State. Every man knew his company, each regiment its rendezvous, each division its camp, and each corps its headquarters. The whole country was a camp, and when war was sounded it sprang to arms. In two weeks a half million of men crossed the Rhine, and Germany was ready for its destiny.

Rev. J. W. Mann followed with a warm exhortation. An opportunity was then given for any one to speak upon Experimental Religion. Revs. Aikin, Spence, Drake, Harrison, and others spoke briefly. The interest in the Convention is constantly increasing among the ministers and citizens. It is to be regretted that many Ministers were not present who expected to be present, for they would have returned home with more personal piety and better prepared to preach the Gospel.

LAST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY, August 25. The Convention met at 9 A.M. President H. H. Hays, in the chair, gave an address on the subject of the Convention. An educated people can be trusted and depended upon, and for such organization and system is all that is needed.

SPEAKING IN ROANE COUNTY.

Hon. Horace Maynard addressed a large number of the voters of Roane county at Kingston on Monday. His review of the acts of the late Constitutional Convention, and Legislature, was one of the most searching and thorough exposures we have listened to. He arraigned them before the honest yeomanry of that county, and when he was through there was a universal verdict of incompetency and political corruption against the two bodies mentioned, and the party which controlled them. There isn't a corporal's guard in Roane county who will defend the policy which is being pursued by the party in power in Tennessee. Look out for a good report from there in November.

The European war has played sad havoc with the march of science in France and Germany. Nearly all the universities and schools of learning are closed, the students and professors taking part in the conflict. Civilization will be put back a quarter of a century.

LOYAL CLAIMS.

The *Whig and Register* appears as the champion of the Union men of East Tennessee, advocating the payment of all claims due for property taken by the Government during the war. It has discovered in the report of the Hon. Columbus Delano, Chairman of the Committee on Claims in the 40th Congress, statements which, it is shocked to say, are slurs upon the character of every Union man in the South. Upon examining that report, we find the slur complained of to be the simple enunciation of a legal proposition which we supposed was familiar to every law student in the country, and not new to men of the experience in journalism which we accord to our contemporary. The declaration was that in the eye of the law, every resident of the States in rebellion was an enemy to the Government. Considering that long before the report of Mr. Delano, and frequently since, the Supreme Court of the United States announced the same well established principle of law, we see no reason for any such sensitiveness on the part of our neighbor. Every citizen living in the South during the war had the character of an enemy to the Government impressed upon him, by reason of the hostile character and purposes of the insurrectionary government under which he, for a time, lived. No matter what his personal sentiments may have been, he partook of the character of the government over him, and in the eye of the law was an enemy. This principle of law is based upon reason and justice, and has been recognized for years by every known publicist. The Government of the United States could not direct its armies against those personally who were rebels, for they were too numerous. It was impossible to single them out. The Government was, therefore, compelled to make war upon the people of the South as a whole—as an organized body—and for the purpose of facilitating its efforts in suppressing the rebellion, and thereby shortening the war, lost sight of individuals, and made war upon all who chose or were compelled to remain within the enemy's lines. By strict construction of law, every bit of property in the South was lawful subject of seizure by the Government. But such has not been its policy. It did during the war, and has since, in so far as it was possible, recognized the patriotism and devotion of this people. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been paid to our loyal East Tennesseans, and more will yet be paid. We believe more would be paid now were it not for the extortionate demands made by some who thought more of their claims than they did of their country. The most exorbitant demands have generally been made by men whose loyalty, to say the least, was questionable. This class of claims has swollen the aggregate due to such a sum that every legislator trembles when he thinks of the burdens it makes probable for the future. If the large and exorbitant claims of these quasi Union men were out of the way, the others would speedily be settled.

But we suggest that these complaints would come better from other sources. One day our Democratic friends complain of high taxes, and the next they complain that the Government does not pay these claims, which would certainly raise all taxes very materially. But their motives in making such complaints are well understood. They seek to make political capital out of it, and care little about loyal men's demands. If they had thought more of the Union men of East Tennessee during the war and before the war, we would not now have claims to settle, or bitterness to recall. The Union people of East Tennessee have suffered enough at their hands already, and they would thank them now if they would meddle less with their claims. We know the Government is just, and will give them relief as soon as possible. Our delegation from Tennessee in Congress have done all they could, and the complaints against them, fortunately, come from sources where the motive is understood.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

The Atlanta Constitution is out in a somewhat lengthy editorial, denouncing the use of Northern school books in Southern schools. The editor charges the authors of these books with "being unfair and prejudiced in the treatment of the South, its people and its institutions." By the use of these books, he thinks our children are "wrongly taught," a "Northern spirit of antagonism and detraction" pervading them generally. He goes on to make the attack with a good deal of unnecessary bitterness, ostensibly to bring into notice a series of school books written by ex-Confederate Maury, and others, of Confederate notoriety. We have no objection to his commendation of books compiled by Southern authors. We would rejoice at the success of any Southern man in that line. We see no reason why the people of the South should not in a few years take a high position in the literary world. But to accomplish this, we see no reason for maligning and misrepresenting our friends of the North, merely because they are Northern men. Text books which are to be used in our schools should stand on their own merits, and the man who is so narrow-minded and so contemptibly silly as to stop and ask where the author is born is not likely to render much assistance in the great work of educating the masses.

A writer in the London *Illustrated Times*, who has tested the method of water-proofing with sugar of lead and alum, says that he has worn garments of common Scotch tweed thus treated, in the wildest storms of wind and rain, without getting wet. Even after walking in a driving rain for nine miles, his clothes were as dry under his waterproof overcoat as when he put them on.

The great trouble about business openings for women is, that it's almost impossible for them to be silent partners in any concern.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

THE WAR.

FOREIGN NEWS BY THE CABLE.

Prince Royal's Army at Chalons.

Capture of 10 Guns and 850 Prisoners.

Prussian Assault on Verdun Repulsed.

Capture of Vitry by the Prussians.

MISCELLANY.

A STUBBORN VESSEL OF WAR.

McMahon's Position—The Huns at Montmedy—Reported Battle.

LONDON, August 29.—A French war steamer anchored here refuses to obey official notice to leave.

Thursday, at Eprenay, the National Guard repulsed the Prussians. The attack on Verdun was also repelled by the Garde Mobile.

The manifest intention of the Prussians is to destroy McMahon as they destroyed Bazaine and then turn their attention to Paris.

It is said the French repulsed the Prussians a few miles northeast of Vansels.

LONDON, August 29.—11 A.M.—It is reported that a great battle has occurred, in which the Crown Prince defeated McMahon.

PARIS, August 28.—In the Corps Legislatif, on yesterday, Palikao announced that 10,000 Prussians attacked Verdun that morning, and were repulsed with heavy loss. While giving particulars, Arago demanded information in regard to the situation of the Prussian armies. The Minister of War declined to reply.

PARIS, August 29.—A letter describing the preparations for the siege says: "Two hundred thousand good troops are in Paris and fresh thousands, well armed, arrive hourly. A new corps from Lyons has arrived. 1,500 gunners from the fleets are in the fortifications, and the city is swarming with troops. There is a strong conviction that the enemy will be checked."

PARIS, August 28.—Midnight.—The following was published on the 25th inst 9 A.M.: Verdun was attacked by the Prussians 10,000 strong, Commanded by the Crown Prince of Saxony. After an ardent combat of two hours, during which 300 shells were thrown into the city and having suffered heavily by our artillery, they were repulsed, their loss being considerable. We had 5 killed and 12 wounded. The enemy fired on the ambulance train which they struck seventeen times, 2 persons belonging to it were killed. The citizens made a vigorous defence. The movement of the Prussians along the Aube seems to have been arrested, they are falling back on St. Dizier. Large bodies of infantry are passing through Luneville.

NEW YORK, August 29.—A special to the *Courier des Etats Unis* from Paris last night says: McMahon's communication with Metz and Bazaine is assured, and confirms the French victory at Stenay and Verdun. The appearance of the enemy between Rheims and Soissons indicates that a wave of the invaders will come up on us by the valleys Aysne and Oise. It matters little by how many routes the enemy comes, the entire circumference of the fortifications is formidable. All roads are obstructed, save only railroads and canals. Many gates and posterns are walled up.

LUXEMBURG, August 29.—Reports received last night state that there was fighting all day at Dun, between Stenay and Verdun. The firing was steady from morning till night. No particulars have been received.

BRUSSELS, August 29.—Bazaine is certainly under the walls of Metz.

The Prussians report that typhus fever is raging at Metz.

BERLIN, August 29.—The fortresses here are overflowing with French prisoners. Prison camps are being formed.

PARIS, August 27.—The *Paris Moniteur* says:

"The Prussians wish to invest Paris, but France will invest it before them from every department, without the loss of an hour, and with that unanimity which alone promises great results, forms corps of volunteers. In 1848 an important movement took place, and the ardor which saved us then will save us to-day. It is the safety of our native land which rouses us all."

"The country is degenerate if in less than 48 hours our enthusiasm does not make itself widely known, and if the provinces do not send Paris at least 50,000 defenders. Our material interests, as well as love of country, invite us to all sacrifices. Ought we not to be more willing to expend our resources in driving out the enemy than be compelled to yield to him a victory and disgraceful tribute?"

The *Constitutionnel* says that the order calling out for active service all former soldiers between the ages of 25 and 35 creates considerable uneasiness. It adds: "It were better to incorporate 350,000 of the Garde Mobile in the regular army." It also adds: "The Prussians act not only contrary to all military laws but also those of humanity. At Strasburg, they force the young men to work in the trenches, under threats of death, where they are killed by shots from the besieged city."

"Thus Frenchmen are forced to kill their brethren. Such acts are unworthy of the age. They give singular ideas to Prussian civilization, and only tend to increase French hatred and augment their determination to punish the Prussians."

The siege of Toul has been abandoned, owing to the vigorous resistance of its garrison.

VITRY TAKEN BY THE PRUSSIANS.

The Prince Royal Reinforced—The Prussian Base Extended too Far.

LONDON, August 28.—The following official dispatch is dated Bar le Duc, Friday, and comes via Berlin: The garrison of Vitry has surrendered and we administer the Province.

LONDON, Aug. 27.—On Thursday evening the Prussian headquarters were at Bar-le-Duc. The advance had reached a point midway between Chalons and Eprenay. The march on Paris is to be conducted leisurely by the Prussians, as no further opposition is anticipated. There is authority for saying that the fortifications of Paris, unless manned by 300,000 men, are worthless.

LONDON, August 29.—The *Times* Berlin special says that 220,000 Prussians are moving on Paris.

The Prussian Prince Royal has issued a proclamation saying that Prussia makes war against the Emperor, not the people. The people have nothing to fear. The Prince announces his purpose to restore every line of travel that was intercepted or destroyed by the army operations so that labor and commerce may everywhere be renewed.

The *Times*, reviewing the Prussian resources, says: "Three armies of reserves are formed to await events; one on the Rhine, under the Duke of Mecklenburg; one at Berlin, under Gen. Constant; and one in Silesia, under Gen. Tonentzery."

According to the French report, 15,000, and according to the Prussian report, 20,000, French soldiers are disabled by hospital and typhus fevers.

The tactics of McMahon appears to be to gather up the broken corps, thereby swell his ranks, and then sweep along the borders of Belgium, avoiding battle, and make a junction with Metz from the North. If successful he will cut the Prussian communications at St. Avold.

There is fighting going on between Bazaine and Mousay.

According to all probability, there will be an important action soon near Montmedy.

Immense quantities of meat have been shipped from Liverpool to France.

There is great activity at the British navy yards.

It is stated that M. Weiss, who succeeded Parodi in the Chair of Literature of Aix, and who founded the *Journal de Paris*, is appointed Minister to Washington.

PARIS, August 26.—The enemy's couriers have been seen at Brienne.

The Huns appeared at Langue, but soon fell back northward to the corps d'armee, which was marching towards Chalons.

The people on the outskirts of Stenay, between Verdun and Mezieres, are defending themselves gallantly against raids, and have inflicted considerable damage on the enemy.

PARIS, August 26.—The authorities visited the army yesterday, to see if it had the legal amount of flour, namely: Forty days' supply.

In the Corps, Montpayreux proposed the incorporation of the Garde Mobile into the regular army. This would give the regular army at least one hundred new regiments. The proposition was sent to the Committee and will doubtless be adopted. The *Journal Francaise* learns from a certain source that before ordering the Prince Royal to march on Paris, the King held a council of war composed of the Generals and Princes commanding the Prussian forces. The advice of all was to remain in French territory until conquered, and to fortify the right bank of the Moselle.

The *Opinion National* says that the battles fought on the 23d and 24th resulted in the wholesale slaughter of the Prussians. The same paper says Steinmetz was beaten in the former and Frederick Charles in the latter battle. It also states that the forts around Paris are amply armed, garrisoned and provisioned.

It was Bismarck who ordered that no halt should be made on the road to Paris. The King acquiesced, though his generals advised him to look after McMahon first and Paris afterwards.

BERLIN, August 27.—6 P.M.—General headquarters are temporarily at St. Dizier. Great quantities of stores have gone to the Prussian army at Nancy.

Metz was completely invested at eight this morning. Bazaine, who is in command there, makes no effort to force a passage. Deserters report the extreme demoralization of the garrison. The Prussians are strongly entrenched before the place.

Of the three new armies just organized in Germany, one will march on Paris with the Prince Royal, while the others remain to protect the rear.

Prussian scouts cut the railroad at Tomblaten, between Montmedy and Mezieres. They were repulsed by a body of sharpshooters and the road repaired.

The Prussians at Stenay are falling back on Dun, further south.

The King and Crown Prince of Prussia are moving on Paris, via Marne and Aube. They commit unheard of outrages and fearful pillages on the route.

There are now in Paris 15,000 sheep, 40,000 hogs, and 25,000 bees. In case of a siege, the authorities will prevent unreasonable prices for the necessities of life.

The railroad station at Rheims was recently pillaged by bummers. The Imperial baggage which was stolen has since been disposed of to various dealers here. The value of the property taken was immense.

The *Presse* affirms to-day that Steinmetz is cut off from Frederick Charles, and is being driven northward. Also, that the Prussians are decidedly checked at Mezieres.

The garrison at Strasburg made a sortie yesterday, capturing a convoy of cattle and some munitions of war. The city still makes a vigorous resistance.

BERLIN, August 26.—The fourth army, under the Prince Royal of Saxony, is forming to co-operate with the third army in the movement on Paris.

Letter from Jamaica.

We are permitted to publish the following extract from a private letter to a gentleman in this city:

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, WEST INDIES, August 2, 1870.

Kingston is a city of about forty thousand inhabitants, mostly Creoles. The proportion of pure whites is very small, perhaps one in twenty. So, also, is the proportion of pure Africans. I should suppose, from all I have heard, somewhat greater than of the whites. The Creoles vary in tint from brown to fair. The chief business men of the city belong to this class. Some of them are quite wealthy, and they live in a generous style, in elegant mansions and with luxurious surroundings. The people of Jamaica are very kind and hospitable. The police of the city is good and the order not creditable.

Kingston has very large, substantial churches; some of them are costly and elegant. I attended "Coke's Chapel" last Sabbath morning, and listened to an able sermon on West India emancipation, (the anniversary of which occurred August 1.) This chapel (Wesleyan), is on the very spot where Thomas Coke, more than a hundred years ago, planted the standard of Wesleyan Methodism. The best fittings are in the gallery. The ground floor is flagged, and more than half the seats are simply benches, without backs. The pulpit is in the centre of the audience room. It is high; and below it—about high enough for a pulpit—is a reading desk. There is a large organ in the gallery; and the singing, which is congregational and very superior, is led by a small choir. The preacher read the liturgy, in which the people generally joined. He preached in full clerical dress; i. e. in a black silk gown and white neckband.

The church is of gothic architecture, but without steeple or tower. It will seat a thousand persons.

Wesley Chapel is larger and more costly than Coke's. In this, also, as in most of the Wesleyan chapels, is an organ of superior tone and compass.

The western part of the Island has been visited with unprecedented and destructive floods, caused by heavy rains. It places the water rose to the height of sixteen feet outside the river beds, sweeping away dwellings and causing much loss of property and life. The season has been dry in other parts of the Island, causing light sugar crops.

Jamaica, contrary to the opinion of many in the states, is a healthy island. It is not so hot here as in New York in June. A regular sea-breeze, blowing almost every day, keeps the temperature down to a comfortable point, the mercury ranging from 70 degrees to 86 degree, Fahrenheit. It has never been above 92 degrees in forty years, and very rarely has it gone up to that figure.

Thunder showers are not usual. They sometimes come up very suddenly, and the roar and flash are awfully grand. Earthquakes are remembered to have occurred at distant intervals, but never in a destructive degree; never to the extent of throwing down buildings or endangering life.

Kingston is free from plague and pestilence. There has been no yellow fever, or cholera this season. The physicians pronounce it painfully healthy. I can imagine few climates equally agreeable, none superior.

Just now there is much interest felt in the telegraphic connection Jamaica is to have with the world around it by means of the submarine cable from Kingston to Aspinwall, (Colen.) It will be completed to Cuba before this letter shall have reached you. Then Kingston, Jamaica, can shake hands with New York and London and with the rest of mankind.

I hope to send a telegraphic message by this line before sailing. Thus you see the telegraphic circle is extending, and it will soon belt the globe and have its lateral branches North and South to every civilized nation of the world.

"WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN."

A gentleman of this city in recent travels found himself on a river steamer, and among the passengers were Generals Sherman and N. B. Forrest. They were privately and in a friendly manner discussing the war, in which both took such prominent parts in their respective armies. Said Sherman: "General Forrest, there was a time when you troubled me a great deal; in fact, were a nightmare to me; I thought of you all day and dreamed of you at night." "Yes," said Forrest, "and I know when it was; and if I had been given the command I asked for and ought to have had, I would have been about you day and night—a nightmare sure enough. It was when you cut loose from Atlanta and started on your march 'down to the sea.' I was in Mississippi at the time, and begged for a cavalry command, which, if it had been given me, would have made my command about twenty thousand strong. With that many men I would have hung on your flanks and made your march the most hazardous and trying one you ever undertook." Sherman answered: "Well, Forrest, I'm glad your request was not granted." So we were. If it had been, who knows but what Sherman's march to the sea might have been as disastrous as Napoleon's on Moscow.

General Moltke, it appears, is another of the men who have learned how to set a bridge upon their tongues. He seldom speaks to anybody, and never converses. He knows seven languages, but if it is a superfluous accomplishment, since he never uses one of them—a man, in fact, entirely after Mr. Carlyle's heart. Just before he started for the war, a great speculator in stocks met him, and desiring to get a hint or two for future use, said: "Well, General, how are things getting on?" "Thank you, Sir," was the reply, "my rye crops are getting on beautifully, but my potatoes are very backward." Things have been getting on better with the General since then.